

POLICY & FISCAL AFFAIRS BOARD MEETING
Department of Juvenile Justice Services
Director's Report
February 5, 2015

The Department of Juvenile Justice Services (DJJS) appreciates the significant support of the Board of County Commissioners and the Policy and Fiscal Affairs Board members.

Personnel/Budget FY 2014

- ✚ The 2015 Spring Peace Officers Standards Training (POST) Category II Academy is tentatively set to start on March 16, 2015. We are projected to have eleven (11) cadets that will become Probation Officers in Detention.
- ✚ For the current fiscal year, it is estimated that retirement costs will be in excess of \$450,000. Since there is no budget allocation for this expense, this cost affects the budget.
- ✚ As of February 1, 2015, the Department, in accordance with Nevada Revised Statutes, will no longer issue work permits.

Community Issues

- ✚ The Department is seeking to partner with the College of Southern Nevada in providing certification programs to youth that will assist in transitioning to adulthood. Once the collaboration is finalized, the goal is to provide portable certification programs to our youth that will prepare them for post-secondary education or the workforce.
- ✚ The Department is also seeking opportunities to expand vocational education opportunities at the Spring Mountain Youth Camp and the community through Workforce Connections opportunities.
- ✚ The Department is partnering with the University of Nevada Las Vegas to conduct an extensive study of our current practices and how our practices affect recidivism.
- ✚ The Department is beta testing a screening tool for our Intake Hallway that will better assist Juvenile Probation Officers in determining appropriate services for low level offenses and to identify signs of high risk behavior that can be forwarded internally for more in depth assessments to assist in deterring any escalation in criminal behavior.
- ✚ The Department continues to seek partnerships in the community and possible grant opportunities to begin exploration of an assessment center. Research indicates that connecting youth and families to meaningful services early on can deter further involvement in the juvenile justice system.

Spring Mountain Youth Camp (SMYC)

- ✚ The SMYC Wrestling and Basketball seasons are under way. The Golden Eagles are doing very well this season and should be in the hunt for a zone or state title.
- ✚ The SMRC is continuing to do a great deal of community service projects such as assisting the SNRHA, Federal, State, and County organizations, and many others.
- ✚ The SMRC staff has done an excellent job and is continuing to bill Medicaid for its services.
- ✚ DJJS was approved for a \$2.3 million dollar grant to build a new residential center. Management did an excellent job preparing the grant as well as two presentations. The grant still has to be awarded by the BCC.
- ✚ SMYC and H.I.T. will be graduating 7 youth on February 13. These youth will have an opportunity to be employed upon release.

Juvenile Detention

- ✚ **Average Daily Population** for September to current date is 142.02 a slight increase from the 135.45 at the beginning of the year
- ✚ **Average Length of Stay (ALOS)** for September 2014 to current date is 19.21 a large increase from this year's ALOS of 16.11, challenges in placement of youth contributed to this increase, and the length of stay of a youth waiting for placement at Benchmark, youth has been detained since October 2014, he is tentatively scheduled to be released late February 2015.
- ✚ **Booking** releases from September through current date are 893. We had 807 R/A's from booking during this time frame. Return Agreements (RA) are slightly higher due to the inter-local agreement with Nye County as they are moving their kids to hearings and medical appointments more frequently.
- ✚ We are preparing the campus for a "mock" PREA audit, in hopes of identifying any deficiencies and changes we need to make to pass the state audit.
- ✚ The Detention Division continues to be in compliance with **Senate Bill 107, Corrective Room Restriction Reporting** - NRS Chapter 62 B and NRS Chapter 63, which took effect on 10/01/2013. Once a month data collected on room restriction is collected and sent to the Juvenile Justice Programs Office. The process has been running smoothly and has received compliments from partners outside the agency. Our data collection process has been used as a model for other agencies with the state. We have made improvements in reducing our use of room confinement.
- ✚ The staff are meeting in preparation for the yearly Black History Program scheduled for February 27, 2015, our Guest Speaker is retired Clark County Fire Chief Washington.

- ✚ The Detention Division continues to facilitate **programming** to the youth that involve community partnerships. Toe Tag Monologues, Safe Nest, Southern Nevada Health District, Planned Parenthood, Religious Organizations and several members of the community continue to provide regular and consistent programs to the youth in Detention addressing, healthy relationships, job skills, and educational and career development.
- ✚ The Detention Division **Honors Room** is still running strong, the Children Services Guild purchase new items for the youth to enjoy. They also gave all the living units \$400.00 to spend on the youth for Christmas.
- ✚ The Detention Division received two newly promoted supervisors and they are currently in a training period and have been assigned to units E3 and E5.

Probation Division

✚ **Evening Reporting Center**

The supervisor for the Evening Reporting Center, Jody Lupo, has been reassigned to the Probation Division and starts on February 2, 2015. She will be responsible for the development and implementation of the programming at the ERC in collaboration with the Director's Office and Probation Administration. Additionally, the ERC will be actively seeking community partners to deliver some of the programming provided at the ERC. Grand opening is targeted for May/June 2015, which is contingent upon the relocation of the Southwest Probation Center.

✚ **Probation Center Relocations**

The Southwest Probation Center must vacate the current location (6171 W. Charleston Blvd. Bldg. 15) on or before 6/30/15. DJJS is in negotiation for the Center to relocate to a large suite near Sahara/Rainbow (2655 S. Rainbow) that will house the Evening Reporting Center and the southwest region of the Intensive Supervision Unit along with tradition field services for the southwest region of the valley. The Stewart Probation Center (northeast) and RPM are working with the landlord to complete multiple tenet improvements for the center to remain at the current location, which is convenient for clients. Later this year, the Probation Division will look to relocate the Eastside Probation Center (southeast) as the center outgrown the current office suite and it is the smallest center.

✚ **Service Expansion**

Purchasing and the Department is planning to release an RFP to expand and enhance contracted substance abuse treatment services and access to outpatient mental health services this spring. The RFQ will focus on residential substance abuse services, outpatient substance abuse services and outpatient mental health counseling services. The contracted services from the RFQ will be for next fiscal year. DJJS is optimistic that qualified vendors will incorporate creativity in working with a delinquent population into evidence-based treatment practices. It is anticipated that funding outpatient substance abuse services and outpatient mental health counseling services will reduce the number of youth in placement. Community-based services will give families, communities, and systems the opportunity to intervene and prevent the onset of antisocial behaviors and deeper justice system involvement, which will reduce reliance on out-of-home placements.

✚ **School Attendance Review Board (SARB)**

CCSD is exploring to possibility of expanding SARB next school year. SARB is exploring expanding the service region(s) for next school year and is analyzing the resources that will be required to expand. Currently, the focus remains on Valley High School and the middle schools that feed Valley High School enrollment. SARB is composed of Clark County School District, DFS and DJJS members who meet regularly to diagnose and resolve persistent student attendance problems. The SARB is authorized by NRS 392.126.

Clinical Services

- ✚ The Division has been tasked with vetting all of the **Basic Skills Training (BST)** and **Psychosocial Rehabilitation (PSR)** providers for the Department. We continue to receive and review applications from interested behavioral health agencies.
- ✚ Clinical Services is represented on the Clark County Mental Health Consortium as a voting member as well as on the Infrastructure workgroup. In addition, they are represented on the Mental Health Pediatric Task Force, the Substance Abuse Coalition, and the DFS Youth at Risk of Homelessness Planning Project's Wellness and Education subcommittees
- ✚ **The Residential Treatment Center (RTC) Screening Committee** meets weekly, reviewing approximately 3 cases each meeting. The committee is functioning well and youth appropriate for higher levels of care are being placed in a timely manner. Site visits for 2015 are underway.
- ✚ **Substance Abuse Programming at Spring Mountain Youth Camp** began in January and is going well. Enrolled youth are eligible to receive individual, family, and/or group counseling services as well as an aftercare component once released from camp.
- ✚ Clinical Services is providing mandatory suicide prevention training to all DJJS Probation Officers. **Shield of Care** is an 8-hour, evidence-informed curriculum that teaches juvenile justice staff strategies to prevent suicide in their correctional facility environment. The *Shield of Care* suicide prevention model (S-Plan) is unique because it is tailored to the juvenile justice environment and emphasizes a system-focused model of preventing suicide. Specifically, the Shield of Care model does the following: (1) Emphasizes that policy, connectedness to youth, and communication between staff are essential system-level elements of suicide prevention; (2) Teaches staff specific steps of effective suicide intervention (Seeing, Protecting, Listening, Assessing, Networking); and (3) Provides opportunities for staff to reflect on internal policies for suicide prevention, discuss strategies for overcoming potential barriers, and plan how to take action in their specific facility context.